

clinical establishments in the country. National Council for clinical establishments has **been set up to determine the** standards for clinical establishments, classify the clinical **establishment into different** categories, develop minimum standards and their periodic review, compile, maintain **and** update a national register of clinical establishments, perform any other function determined by **the** Central Government, from time to time.

Modest growth in agriculture and allied services

* 139. SHRIDHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to data released by the Central Statistical Organization, there **is** modest growth in agriculture and allied services during 2007-08;

(b) if so, **the** details in this regard;

(c) what are the reasons for low growth in the production of foodgrains during 2007-08; and

(d) the steps being taken for the growth of agriculture sector during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per Advance Estimates of National Income 2007-08 by Central Statistical Organization (CSO) released on 7th February, 2008, the growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors during the year 2007-08 in **the** country measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices (1999-2000) is estimated at 2.6 per cent.

(c) As per second advance estimates, the production of foodgrains during 2007-08 is estimated at 219.32 million tonnes as compared to 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07, registering an increase of 2.04 million tonnes.

(d) Towards improving the growth in the agriculture sector, recently, the Government has taken following steps:

- Launched the National Food Security Mission with an outlay of Rs. 4,882 crore for the Eleventh Plan period. It aims to produce additional 10 million tonnes of rice. 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of the Eleventh Plan.
- Launched the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), with an outlay of Rs.25,000 crore for the Eleventh Plan period which aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Plan period, through incentivising the States to invest more in agriculture sector.
- Established National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to assist and support in planning and implementation of programmes in the rainfed areas.
- National Horticulture Mission is under implementation.
- Provided additional financial resources for irrigation.
- Strategic focus on the national agriculture research effort.
- National Policy for Farmers, 2007 was launched in November, 2007.

PCPIR in Gujarat

* 140. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation has submitted an application for setting up Petroleum Chemical and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) at Dahej in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Techno-feasibility of the proposal has been undertaken and presently the same is under circulation to departments concerned under the Government of India.

Decline in the wheat producing area

t777. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat producing area has decreased in the country;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) the total estimated decrease in the wheat production;

(d) the measures being taken by Government to increase food production keeping in view the increasing population in the country; and

(e) by when these measures would be implemented and time by when wheat production would increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the 2nd Advance Estimates, the area coverage under wheat is estimated at 271.99 lakh hectares which is 7.96 lakh hectares less than that during 2006-07. The area coverage under wheat declined during 2007-08 because of inclement weather conditions at the time of sowing in some States of the country. As per 2nd Advance Estimates released on 07.02.2008, the wheat production in the country is estimated to be 74.81 million tonnes which is 9.97 lakh tonnes less as compared to production of wheat during 2006-07.

(d) and (e) To increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses, Government has launched the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from Rabi 2007-08. The NFSM targets to increase the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, i.e. 2011-2012.

New Farm Policy

778. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the concrete measures to achieve new farm policy relating to increasing farmers' net income, attraction and retention of youth in farming and processing of farm products, risk management to sustain the farmers during adverse circumstances, etc.;

(b) whether the problems faced by poor and marginal farmers like continuing farmers'

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.